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Chapter 1

HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY

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Chapter 1

HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY

The following information on the first humans to live in Tasmania, the Tasmanian Aborigines, is based on a Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery publication, titled 'The Aboriginal People of Tasmania', by Julia Clark.

1.1 THE FIRST PEOPLE AND EARLY EXPLORATION

Aboriginal people have been in Australia for at least 50 000 years. They probably came from Java and perhaps China, crossing the sea to the Australian continent on some kind of watercraft. They then spread to the most fertile areas, arriving in Victoria at least 35 000 years ago.

The Tasmanian Aborigines arrived in Tasmania more than 35 000 years ago. They are the descendants of the first colonists of the Australian continent. By 12 000 years ago, they had become isolated from the rest of Australia by the rising sea flooding the Bass Plain. The creation of Bass Strait brought about the cultural and physical isolation of the Tasmanian Aborigines.

1.1.1 Physical Isolation

The Tasmanian Aborigines are the only people we know who remained totally isolated from other human populations for 12 000 years. As a result of this isolation, they developed certain physical characteristics which have been used to distinguish them from mainland Aborigines. These are small to medium height, woolly hair and certain features related to the size and shape



Truganini . Photo: Tasphoto Services
It was believed at the time of Truganini's death in 1876 that she was the last tribally-born Tasmanian Aboriginal woman. It is now known that she was survived by several other tribally-born women.

of the skull, eye sockets, nasal opening and palate.

However, all these characteristics are also found in mainland Aboriginal people. We also know now that mainland people do not all look the same. People from the Central Desert are tall and slim. People from Victoria were shorter and very muscular. Different forms of the same general group are called 'regional variations' and are also found in European populations. For example, tall, thin, blond Scandinavians are very

different from short, stocky, dark Mediterranean people. Regional variation accounts for the differences between Tasmanian and mainland Aboriginal populations. From the greater number of similarities however, it is clear that both groups are very closely related and had the same ancestors.

1.1.2 Cultural Isolation

Tasmanian Aboriginal culture is different in some ways from mainland Aboriginal culture. Certain things and ideas, which must have been introduced or invented after the Bass Plain became Bass Strait, did not reach Tasmania.

- The dingo arrived in Australia within the last 5000 years, and never reached Tasmania.
- After about 5000 years ago, new stone tools entered the toolkit of all mainland groups. These were very small and finely made. They were not used in Tasmania.
- The technique of hafting stone tools, i.e. fitting axes, blades or scrapers with handles, although common on the mainland, was not used in Tasmania.
- Boomerangs and spear throwers must have been invented after Tasmania was cut off as they were not used in Tasmania. The oldest boomerangs known are 10 000 years old.

Tasmanian Aborigines did not suffer as a result of not having these things. They had all they needed to live well and happily.

1.1.3 The Earliest Sites

Archaeologists have found that people lived in Tasmania over 35 000 years ago. They may have been here even longer.

Past events leave remains such as bones and charcoal in layers. The deepest ones are the oldest and the ones at the top are the most recent. These remains can tell us what people were doing in the past. Radiocarbon dating can tell us when they did these things. In this way, archaeologists can build up a picture of the way of life of the Aboriginal people who used the site.

Cave Bay on Hunter Island was an inland hunting camp 23 000–21 000 years ago. It was abandoned during glaciation 14 000 years ago. Later, when the sea reached its present level 6000 years ago, it was re-occupied by people living off the resources of the sea. Then it was

abandoned again 4000 years ago. In its last phase, beginning 2500 years ago, it was again used as part of the coastal economy of Aboriginal people in the north-west. In the 1800s, Aboriginal people still visited Hunter Island in summer for wallaby hunting, shellfish gathering and muttonbirding.

Beginners Luck Cave in south-central Tasmania was used by Aboriginal people more than 20 000 years ago.

Just before the beginning of the last period of intense glaciation in Tasmania, Aboriginal people were occasional visitors to the Florentine Valley; they came to hunt kangaroos and other animals on the open grasslands which were then present. They camped in the cave and left thick, crude flake tools and the charred remains of their meals.

20 000–15 000 years ago the Ice Age was at its most severe. The people who lived at Kuti Kina then were the world's most southerly population. They hunted wallaby in the open tundra around the cave. Their tools, called 'scrapers', were similar to those used on the mainland at the same time. These kinds of tools were used in Tasmania until the 19th Century.

Darwin glass (which is especially good for making stone tools) and ochre were brought into the area from many kilometres away. So we know that many of the aspects of traditional Tasmanian Aboriginal culture are at least 35 000 years old. These include trade and travel up and down the west coast and inland to the east and the use of ochre.

15 000 years ago the climate became warmer and wetter. The rainforest spread into this area. Wallabies live in open country, so they were forced out. The people who hunted them also had to move on and Kuti Kina was abandoned.

Nicholas Marion du Fresne in 1772 was the first white man to see Tasmania's Aborigines. After a friendly meeting, a misunderstanding led to fighting, resulting in several men from both sides being wounded. The size of the population when Europeans arrived in Tasmania is thought to have been about 4000 to 5000. They were not a declining society, but still evolving.

The Aborigines had no system of recording their own history. Study of their culture was not undertaken until contact with Europeans had erased much of it.

1.1.4 Exploration

Not all early voyages were undertaken with the aim of exploration. A series of voyages to nearby islands resulted in the unintentional discovery of Australia by Europeans in the 17th Century.

1606 Captain William Jansz crossed Torres Strait unawares while exploring the islands of New Guinea in the *Duyfken* and coasted along the west of Cape York Peninsula.

1616 Dirk Hartog journeyed along the western shore of Australia after sailing too far east on the route from the Cape of Good Hope to Java.

1642 Abel Janszoon Tasman, commanding *Heemskirk* and *Zeehan*, sighted the west coast of Tasmania and named his discovery 'Van Diemen's Land'. Landings were made on the Forestier Peninsula and near Blackman Bay on the east coast.

1772 The landing of a party from the French Du Fresne expedition at Marion Bay resulted in an affray with the Aborigines.

1773 Tobias Furneaux, in the *Adventure*, became separated from James Cook in the *Resolution* and landed a party at Adventure Bay, Bruny Island.

1777 James Cook anchored the *Resolution* in Adventure Bay on his third southern expedition.

1789 John Henry Cox, on a sealing expedition from England, sailed the *Mercury* from Cox Bight to Maria Island.

1792 William Bligh, on a second voyage to the Pacific to secure breadfruit, charted the south-east coast.

1793 D'Entrecasteaux returned for further exploration of the south-east coast. John Hayes, commanding the Duke of Clarence expedition, explored the Derwent River.

1798 Matthew Flinders and George Bass circumnavigated Tasmania.

1802 Nicholas Baudin, commanding the *Geographe* and *Naturaliste*, explored the south-east coast.

1.2 SETTLEMENT

There were several reasons for the establishment of a settlement in Van Diemen's Land.

The need for new territories to accommodate an increasing number of transported prisoners in the early stage of Australia's settlement was perhaps the main reason. Van Diemen's Land was so remote and insular it was considered an ideal location for a penal settlement; there were few means of escape for the convicts.

1803 Lieutenant John Bowen, accompanied by eight soldiers, 29 convicts and 10 free settlers, selected Risdon Cove as Tasmania's first settlement which he named Hobart.

1804 Lieutenant-Governor Collins, unhappy with the Risdon site, moved the settlement to Sullivan's Cove. Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson's settlement party landed at Port Dalrymple (Tamar Estuary).

1806 The Tamar settlement was moved from York Town to the Launceston area.

1807 Thomas Laycock's party crossed the island overland from Port Dalrymple to Hobart.

1812 Lieutenant-Governor Thomas Davey arrived. The northern settlements at Port Dalrymple were made subordinate to Hobart. The *Indefatigable* brought the first shipload of convicts direct from England.

1815 Hobart and Port Dalrymple were declared free ports for the importing of goods. Davey proclaimed martial law against bushrangers. James Kelly circumnavigated the island in a whaleboat.

1816 Hobart Town Gazette was first issued.

1817 William Sorell assumed office as Lieutenant-Governor.

1820 John Thomas Bigge conducted an inquiry into colonial administration.

1822 A penal settlement was established at Macquarie Harbour.

- 1823** A British Act for the better administration of justice in NSW and Van Diemen's Land was passed.
- 1824** The Supreme Court was inaugurated. Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur arrived.
- 1825** The first Launceston newspaper, the *Tasmania and Port Dalrymple Advertiser*, was published. Tasmania was constituted a colony independent of NSW. An Executive and Legislative Council was established. Martial law was proclaimed against Aborigines.
- 1829** A settlement was established at Emu Bay (Burnie).
- 1830** George Augustus Robinson began his mission to conciliate the Aborigines. Juries were used for the first time in civil cases. Publication of *Quintus Servinton*, the first novel to be published in Australia. Port Arthur was established as a penal settlement.

The 'Black Line'

After the 'Black War', in which approximately three quarters of the Aboriginal population was killed, Governor Arthur organised his 'Black Line'. Recognising the threat to the Aboriginal race if clashes with settlers continued he planned to segregate the two by driving all of the Aborigines from the settled areas into Forestier Peninsula. The 'Black Line' consisted of the military and hundreds of volunteers who formed a line from St Patrick's Head on the East Coast to the Western Tiers and the Derwent Valley. They advanced slowly, hoping to push the Aborigines forward, towards East Bay Neck. The manoeuvre, which cost £50 000 and took several days to complete, captured one black man and a boy and did not re-locate the Aborigines onto the peninsula.

- 1831** The British Government's new land regulations, discontinuing free grants of land and replacing them with land sales, were approved.
- 1832** The first shipment of Aborigines to Flinders Island occurred. A Caveat Board was established to settle land disputes and to confirm titles. Maria Island was closed as a penal settlement.
- 1833** Macquarie Harbour penal settlement was closed due to its inaccessibility and harsh natural environment. Convicts were transferred to Port Arthur.
- 1834** The Henty brothers from Launceston became the first white settlers in Victoria, occupying land in the Portland Bay area.
- 1835** John Batman sailed from Launceston to Port Phillip as an agent for the Port Phillip Association. Tasmania was divided into counties and parishes. Tasmania's population was estimated as 40 172 persons.
- 1836** The Ross Bridge was opened.
- 1837** Sir John Franklin assumed office as Lieutenant-Governor.

1.3 SELF-GOVERNMENT

When first settled, north and south Van Diemen's Land were administered as two distinct districts, Launceston in the north and Hobart Town in the south. The districts were combined after 1812 and Hobart Town became the colony's centre. Van Diemen's Land was considered as an outlying district of NSW until 1825, with a Lieutenant-Governor responsible to a Governor in Sydney. When the island became a separate colony, the second in Australia, a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed who was responsible to the Colonial Office in London.

- 1838** Sessions of the Legislative Council were opened to the public.
- 1840** Convict transportation to NSW ceased; the numbers transported to Tasmania consequently increased. The population was estimated as 45 999 persons.
- 1841** A Probation System of convict discipline replaced the Assignment System. The Rossbank Observatory for magnetic and meteorological observations was established in Hobart.
- 1842** Tasmania was created a separate Anglican diocese. Hobart was made a city. Peak year for convict arrivals (5329).

1843 Sir John Franklin was recalled as Governor. He was succeeded by Sir John Eardley-Wilmot.

1844 Norfolk Island penal settlement was transferred from NSW to Tasmanian control.

1845 Six members of the Legislative Council (the 'Patriotic Six') resigned when the Governor used what they considered unconstitutional means to impose increased duties on various goods.

1846 Eardley-Wilmot was recalled. Launceston Church Grammar and The Hutchins Schools were founded.

1847 Sir William Denison, the new Lieutenant-Governor, re-appointed the 'Patriotic Six'.

1848 Tasmania was now the only place of transportation in the British Empire.

1850 The Anti-Transportation League was established. The population was estimated to be 68 870 persons.

1851 Limited representative government; first elections for 16 non-appointed members of the Legislative Council were held.

1852 Payable gold was first found near Fingal. Elections were held for the first municipal councils in Hobart and Launceston.

1853 The last convicts to be transported arrived. Van Diemen's Land's first postage stamp (Penny Blue) was issued and used until replaced by an Australian Commonwealth design in 1913.

1854 Bad floods disrupted the Colony. A Bill establishing responsible government was passed.

1855 Sir Henry Fox Young succeeded Denison and was accorded the title of Governor. The Constitution Act, enabling responsible government, was passed.

1856 Van Diemen's Land was renamed Tasmania. The advent of responsible self-government was followed by the opening of a new bi-cameral Parliament with W.T.N. Champ leading the first government in the House of Assembly.

W.T.N. Champ

When William Thomas Napier Champ's Government was sworn in on 1 November 1856, Champ was in his 49th year. He held the office of the first Premier of Tasmania for approximately four months. Prior to becoming Premier he held the high office of Colonial Secretary, had been Controller-General of Prisons and Commandant of the Port Arthur penal settlement. He was an army officer who came to Tasmania with a detachment of the 31st Regiment and was stationed at the notorious Sarah Island, Macquarie Harbour. He took part in Governor Arthur's 'Black War' and was a strong supporter of transportation.

No sooner had Champ succeeded in forming the first Ministry under responsible government when fierce political feuds threatened to end the Government's term. Champ resigned after a vital amendment to his finance bill was carried. Governor Young, in the absence of an organised party system, commissioned the mover of the amendment, Thomas George Gregson, to form a government.

1858 A Council of Education was set up and the *Rural Municipalities Act* passed.

1859 Charles Gould was appointed to undertake a geological survey of western Tasmania. A telegraph link was established with Victoria.

1860 The population was estimated as 89 821 persons.

1861 Colonel Thomas Gore Brown was appointed Governor. The telegraph cable to Victoria failed.

1862 A scheme for a railway between Launceston and Deloraine was promoted.

1864 The first successfully transported salmon and trout ova were hatched.

1868 Primary education was made compulsory.

1869 William Lanney, the last tribally-born Tasmanian Aboriginal man, died. Sir Richard Dry, the first Tasmanian-born Premier, died. A new telegraph cable was laid to Victoria.

- 1870** The remaining Imperial troops were withdrawn. Population was 99 328 (Census).
- 1871** The Launceston-Deloraine railway was opened. Tin was discovered at Mt Bischoff.
- 1872** A contract was let for building the Tasmanian Main Line Railway.
- 1873** The Tasmanian Main Line Railway Co. commenced construction, marking the start of an economic recovery.
- 1874** There were riots in Launceston in protest at rates levied for the Launceston-Deloraine railway.
- 1876** Race meetings commenced at Elwick. A gold nugget worth \$12 200 was found at Nine Mile Spring. Truganini, believed at the time to be the last tribally-born Tasmanian Aboriginal woman, died. The Main Line Railway opened for traffic.
- 1877** Port Arthur was closed as a penal settlement.
- 1878** Mineral exploration of the West Coast was increased.
- 1879** A rich lode of tin was discovered at Mt Heemskirk.
- 1880** The first telephone was installed in Tasmania with a line from Hobart to the Mount Nelson Signal Station.
- 1881** Population 115 705 (Census).
- 1883** Discovery of the 'Iron Blow' at Mt Lyell.
- 1885** A Russian war scare was followed by activity in improvement of defences. The Mt Lyell Prospecting Association was formed.
- 1890** The University of Tasmania was established.
- 1891** The Van Diemen's Land Bank collapsed; a deep depression ensued.
- 1892** The Mt Lyell Mining Co. was established.
- 1896** Tattersalls Lottery was established by George Adams.
- 1897** Bushfires ravaged Tasmania.
- 1898** Tasmanians voted four to one in favour of Federation at a poll.
- 1899** The Southern Cross (Borchgrevinck) expedition departed Hobart for the Antarctic.
- 1900** The Tasmanian contingent to fight in the Boer War departed.

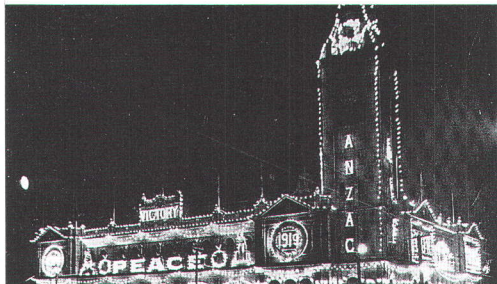
1.4 FEDERATION

Australia has been a federation of six States since 1 January 1901. In 1911 the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory were transferred to the Commonwealth from New South Wales and South Australia.

- 1901** The Commonwealth was proclaimed; polling was held for the first elections to the Federal Senate and House of Representatives. Population 172 475 (Census).
- 1903** Suffrage (voting rights) was extended to women.
- 1905** Experiments in wireless telegraphy between Tasmania and the mainland were undertaken.
- 1907** A new Public Library opened in Hobart, built with a gift from Andrew Carnegie.
- 1909** Irish blight wiped out the State's potato crop. The State's first Labor Government under John Earle was elected.
- 1912** A fire at the North Lyell Mine, Queenstown, trapped miners underground, 42 died.
- 1914** The first aeroplane flight in Tasmania occurred. Tasmania's first contingent to fight in the Great War departed. The Hydro-Electric Department was formed; the Government purchased a private hydro-electric power scheme and commenced a policy of encouraging high-energy-using companies to set up in Tasmania.

1.5 1915 TO 1927

- 1915** Serious bushfires occurred.
- 1917** The Electrolytic Zinc works at Risdon and the Snug carbide works were established.
- 1918** The Great War ended.



Hobart GPO, 1919.

Photo: Archives Office of Tasmania

- 1919** Frozen meat was exported for the first time.
- 1920** Edward, Prince of Wales, visited. Cadbury's purchased a site at Claremont for a chocolate factory.
- 1921** Population 213 780 (Census).
- 1922** The Waddamana power station was completed.
- 1924** Superphosphate was first manufactured in Tasmania by the Electrolytic Zinc Co. at Risdon.
- 1925** Osmiridium fields were discovered at Adamsfield.
- 1927** An inquiry into a proposed bridge over the Derwent at Hobart was held. The Duke and Duchess of York visited Tasmania.

1.6 THE DEPRESSION YEARS

- 1929** Automatic telephone facilities were introduced to Hobart. Economic depression and serious floods affected Tasmania.

1930 Export prices fell to half the 1928 levels. The Australian pound was devalued so that £1 sterling equalled £1/5s.

1931 The Depression continued - the federal basic wage was cut by 10 per cent. An austere Premier's Plan included a conversion loan to reduce the rate of interest on internal federal debt by 22 ½ per cent. Senior Ministers, including J.A. Lyons, from Tasmania resigned from the Scullin Government. Following the carrying of a vote of no-confidence in the Government, elections were held at which the Scullin Labor Government was swept from office. Lyons led the opposition United Australia Party to victory.

1932 Joseph Lyons was sworn in as Prime Minister.

1933 A Commonwealth Grants Commission was appointed to inquire into the affairs of claimant States.

1934 Thirty-five years of continuous Labor Government in Tasmania began with the election of the A.G. Ogilvie Ministry. The second phase of hydro-electric development commenced at Tarraleah and Butlers Gorge.

1936 Tasmania was linked with Victoria by a new sub-marine cable.

1937 An epidemic of poliomyelitis occurred. Economic recovery resulted in five shillings 'prosperity loading' being added to the federal basic wage.

1938 A paper mill using native hardwoods was established at Burnie. The first turbines began operating at the Tarraleah power station.

1939 World War II began. Prime Minister Lyons died in office.

1940 Tasmanians sailed for the Middle East with the Australian 6th, 7th, and 9th Divisions.

1941 Newsprint production began at Boyer on the Derwent. Tasmanians sailed for Malaya with the Australian 8th Division.

1942 Uniform federal income tax commenced.

- 1943** The floating-arch Hobart Bridge opened for traffic.
- 1944** Pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) income taxation was introduced from 1 July.
- 1945** World War II ended.

1.7 POST WORLD WAR II

- 1946** The Legislative Council rejected a bill to grant Federal Government price control powers for three years.
- 1947** 'Displaced persons' began arriving from Europe. Population 257 078 (Census).



Polish migrants at a dance, Hobart Town Hall.
Photo: Walenty Ejlak

1948 A forty-hour week was awarded to most workers from 1 January. The High Court rejected as unconstitutional the *Commonwealth Bank Nationalisation Act, 1947*. Tasmanians voted 'No' almost two to one in a referendum denying Federal Government power over prices and rents. The Legislative Council's denial of Supply forced the dissolution of the House of Assembly; the Cosgrove Ministry was returned to power.

1949 Compulsory chest x-rays were introduced in the fight against tuberculosis. The Theatre Royal was purchased by the Government.

1950 Federal petrol rationing ended. Dissolution of the House of Assembly was granted by the Governor and the Cosgrove Ministry was returned to power.

1951 In a referendum to give Federal Government powers in regard to

communism, the 'No' vote prevailed, although Tasmanians expressed a slight preference for 'Yes'.

1952 A single licensing authority was established for hotels, clubs etc. The State's free hospital scheme ceased.

1953 The Arbitration Court abandoned the system of quarterly adjustment of the federal basic wage. State wages boards suspended quarterly basic wage adjustments.

1954 A bill was passed to resolve deadlocks in the House of Assembly. The Metropolitan Transport Trust was formed.

1955 The Bell Bay aluminium plant and the Trevallyn and Tungatinah power schemes were opened.

1956 The State wages board restored the 'cost-of-living' adjustments effective from 1 February but later suspended them. The EZ Company's sulphate of ammonia plant was opened. The Centenary of self-government was celebrated.

1957 The Legislative Council rejected a bill giving aid to private schools.

1958 The Rivers and Water Supply Commission was established, together with the Public Service Tribunal as an industrial authority.

1959 The first election to fill 35 seats in the enlarged House of Assembly resulted in Labor being re-elected. The *Princess of Tasmania* commenced a roll-on roll-off ferry service from Melbourne to Devonport.

1.8 1960 TO 1989

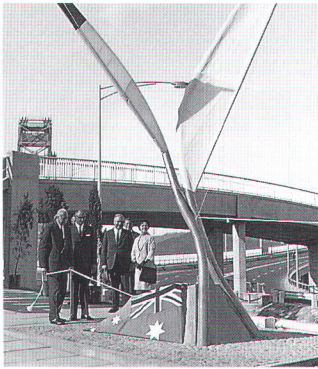
1960 Liapootah power station was commissioned. The Zeehan-Strahan railway closed. The Inland Fisheries Commission was created. The first Tasmanian telecasts began.

1961 The *William Holyman*, a cargo container vessel, entered Bass Strait trade. The Legislative Council rejected equal pay legislation.

1962 The Catagunya power scheme turbines began producing electricity. State Wages Boards granted three weeks annual leave. State subsidies were announced for municipal fluoridation schemes.

1963 The Federal Court increased margins by 10 per cent and granted three weeks annual leave. The Universities Commission recommended a medical school for the Tasmanian University. The Mt Lyell railway, from Queenstown to Strahan, closed.

1964 The Tasman Bridge opened for traffic. Hobart's water supply was fluoridated. Glenorchy was raised to city status.



Tasman Bridge opening, 1964. Photo: Tasphoto Services

1965 Provisional driving licences were introduced. A Dental Nurse scheme for schools was implemented.

1966 Decimal currency was introduced on 14 February. The Burnie-Launceston co-axial cable was completed. Equal pay for certain State Public Service females was granted. Breathalyser tests were approved for use by police. Subscriber-trunk-dialling was introduced.

1967 The bush fire disaster of 7 February resulted in 62 deaths and over 1000 houses were destroyed. The Federal Arbitration Commission abolished the basic wage and substituted a total wage concept but the basic wage was retained in State awards. The Mt Cleveland tin mining town of Luina was completed.

1968 The Batman Bridge across the lower Tamar was opened. The Federal Government granted a subsidy for apples and pears exported to the UK and other countries. Full adult suffrage for Legislative Council elections from 1 July 1969 was introduced. Capital punishment was abolished.

1969 A State election resulted in the election of 17 ALP, 17 Liberals and one Centre Party member (Mr Kevin Lyons). Mr Lyons combined with the Liberals to form a coalition government, ending a 35-year Labor rule in Tasmania. The Full Bench of the Federal Arbitration Commission granted equal pay to females performing equal work. The copper smelter at Mt Lyell was closed; concentrate was sent to Japan and Port Pirie (SA) for treatment.

1970 The first pyrites from Rosebery were railed to the Burnie sulphuric acid plant. The EZ Co. commenced a \$6.3 million residue treatment plant. Parliament legislated to introduce permanent daylight saving.

1971 APPM Ltd's Wesley Vale paper plant was opened. The Population Census count was 390 413 persons.

1972 K.O. Lyons resigned cabinet portfolios and ended the Liberal-Centre Party Coalition. The ANL vessel *Princess of Tasmania* made her final trip to Tasmania.

1973 The Bell Bay rail link; the first legal casino in Australia, Wrest Point; and the \$121 million Mersey-Forth HEC scheme were officially opened. Storeys Creek tin mine closed down. The *Blythe Star* was lost at sea. Tasmania voted in line with other Australian States on prices and incomes referenda; 'No' to both.

1974 Workers under State Wages Boards' awards were granted four weeks annual leave; women were awarded equal pay. The Gordon Dam was completed. A no-fault third party insurance scheme was implemented.

1975 Tasmanian suburban rail services ceased. The bulk ore carrier *Lake Illawarra* rammed the Tasman Bridge resulting in a 128-metre gap and 12 deaths. The TAB began operating. Transmission of colour television programs commenced in Tasmania. Hotels were allowed to open for Sunday trading.

1976 Sea cargo to and from Tasmania was subsidised by a freight-equalisation scheme.

1977 The Federal Government confirmed Kingston as the site for Australia's new Antarctic Division Headquarters. The Tasman Bridge was re-opened.

1978 The Tasmanian railways came under full control of the Australian National Railways Commission. All regular passenger train services in Tasmania ceased.

1979 The State Government expanded the South-West Conservation area to more than 20 per cent of the State's total area. The State's first Ombudsman was appointed. Tasmania's Parliamentary Hansard was introduced. A claim that a new Labor MHA in Franklin, Michael Aird, had breached the Electoral Act by spending more than the statutory limit of \$1500 on his election expenses began the so-called 'Electoral' or 'Constitutional Crisis'. The HEC released a report which recommended a \$1.36 billion power development scheme involving the Lower Gordon, Franklin and King Rivers.

1980 Public pressure resulted in the State Government deciding to save the Franklin River by opting to flood the Gordon at its junction with the Olga, the Gordon-above-Olga power scheme, and to construct four separate schemes on the King River. The Upper House Select Committee recommended the HEC's proposed Gordon-below-Franklin scheme and rejected the Government proposed Gordon-above-Olga scheme legislation.

1981 The State Government placed a statewide ban on Saturday afternoon trading by companies employing more than 100 people. A referendum concerning the State's next power development resulted in a large informal vote but most supported the Gordon-below-Franklin option.

1982 The Southwest National Park, the Franklin-Lower Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and the Cradle Mt-Lake St Clair National Park were nominated by the Federal Government for the World Heritage List; both proposed dam sites lay within the nominated area. The World Heritage Commission placed the areas on its list despite State Government opposition. The Liberal Party formed a Government in its own right for the first time in Tasmania's history. Legislation for the \$453 million Gordon-below-Franklin power scheme passed through Parliament. The Federal Labor Party announced a no-dams policy for a Federal Labor Government.



*Cradle Mountain—Lake St Clair National Park.
Photo: Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage*

1983 The Labor Party led by Mr Hawke won the Federal election. Regulations under section 69 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1975*, gazetted by the Federal Government, made any further work on the Gordon-below-Franklin dam illegal. A Commonwealth writ, seeking an injunction to permanently stop work on the proposed Gordon-below-Franklin dam, and a Tasmanian writ seeking a declaration from the High Court that regulations under which the Commonwealth was acting were constitutionally invalid, were filed in the High Court. The High Court ruled that the Gordon-below-Franklin dam could not go ahead. The lowest temperature yet recorded in Tasmania, -13°C , was registered.

1984 The \$48.5 million Bowen Bridge, and the Wrest Point Convention Centre were opened. Fire caused approximately \$1 million damage to Hobart's historic Theatre Royal. Mr Hawke and Mr Gray signed an agreement for \$270 million compensation to Tasmania for the loss of the Gordon-below-Franklin power scheme.

1985 The State Government revealed details of a \$22 million West Coast road link between Smithton and Zeehan. The municipalities of St Leonards and Lilydale amalgamated with the City of Launceston. The 10 per cent Commonwealth air fare subsidy for travel between Tasmania and Melbourne was abolished. The Bass Strait ferry *Empress of Australia* made its final voyage from Devonport, it was replaced by the *Abel Tasman*. The State Government declared that 24 November would be known as Tasmania Day.

1986 Archaeologists discovered Tasmanian Aboriginal rock paintings in the Southwest, believed to be about 20 000 years old. The Liberal Government was re-elected with

a majority of three seats, a record 15 MHAs lost their seats. The State Government abandoned its controversial fast-track development legislation which deprived Tasmanians of the right of appeal against major planning projects. The 1986 Census counted 436 353 people in Tasmania on census night, an increase of 4.2 per cent on the 1981 count. The municipalities of Gormanston and Queenstown amalgamated to create the new municipality of Lyell.

1987 A High Court decision banned logging in the Lemonthyme and Southern Forests of Tasmania. Aboriginal hand stencils dating back to the last Ice Age were discovered in a cave in the Cracroft Valley in Southern Tasmania. The Hobart Sheraton Hotel was officially opened by the Premier. Tasmania's Bicentenary Tall Ship the *Lady Nelson* was launched. The Australian Conservation Foundation prepared to take the Federal Government's Helsham logging inquiry in Tasmania to court to overturn the decision by the Helsham Commission of Inquiry to free four forest areas in the Lemonthyme Southern forests from High Court protection. Australia's Antarctic supply ship *Nella Dan* sank off Macquarie Island.

1988 The crews of approximately 200 sailing, cruise and naval ships from approximately 20 countries visited Hobart as part of the bicentennial celebrations. The State Government lost its High Court challenge to the validity of the Federal Government's legislation preventing logging in the Lemonthyme and Southern forests. The ruling means that the Federal Government can stop logging in an area by nominating it for World Heritage listing. Northern Tasmania's television station, TNT9 was sold for \$40 million to Victorian TV and radio operator Tricom Corporation Ltd. Burnie became Tasmania's fifth city. The Helsham Inquiry found that five areas of the Lemonthyme and Southern forests qualified for World Heritage listing. These accounted for only eight per cent of the 284 000 hectares reviewed by the Commission. The Tasmanian Sporting Hall of Fame was opened. Federal Cabinet announced that it would not insist on World Heritage listing if Tasmania agreed to protect 80 per cent of the Helsham Inquiry area, the Lemonthyme and Southern forests, and areas outside the inquiry area will also be barred from logging. A compensation payment of \$40 million was offered. The Tasmanian Government accepted

the decision. Clarence became Tasmania's sixth city. In an agreement signed between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments, 80 per cent or 260 000 hectares of the Lemonthyme and Southern forests as well as the Walls of Jerusalem National Park and the Central Plateau Conservation Area were to be jointly nominated for World Heritage listing, taking Tasmania's total World Heritage area to 1 029 355 hectares, or 15.2 per cent of the State. An outbreak of Legionnaires Disease in Burnie resulted in three deaths and 26 confirmed cases of the disease. North Broken Hill and Noranda Forests terminated negotiations with the Federal Government concerning the Wesley Vale Pulp Mill and announced that the mill would not go ahead. A State election was held, nine months before the four-year term was due to complete its course. The Liberal Party won 17 seats, Labor 13 and the Independents 5. After negotiations with the two major parties the Independents signed an accord with the Labor members to form government. Mr Gray requested that the Liberal minority government be sworn in by the Governor. Labor and Independent members of the House of Assembly stated that they would combine to pass a motion of no-confidence in the Gray government at the first sitting of Parliament. A Melbourne man was charged with offering a \$110 000 bribe to newly elected Bass Labor MHA Mr Jim Cox to vote in support of the Gray Government when parliament resumed on 28 June. Prominent Launceston businessman, Edmund Rouse, was also arrested. The Gray Liberal Government faced a vote of no-confidence by the Independent and Labor MHAs in parliament. Debate on the motion lasted throughout the night ending with Mr Gray's government being defeated. Mr Michael Field was sworn in as Tasmania's new premier after the resignation of Mr Gray. An industrial dispute involving domestic airline pilots seriously affected Tasmania. Amalgamation of Tasmania's three tertiary education institutions involving 7500 students and 640 academic staff began. The State Government released a list of 25 schools selected for closure. Plans to open Australia's only sub-Antarctic island (Macquarie Island) to tourism were approved. Government House was opened to the public for the first time. All but



Edmund Rouse
Photo: *The Mercury*

five of the 19 schools on the State Government's list were saved from closure in an historic deal struck between the Independents and the Legislative Council. The Douglas-Apsley area was declared a national park.

1.9 THE NINETEEN-NINETIES

1990

January

The Waverley Woollen Mills in Launceston and Oystas, one of Tasmania's largest oyster processing companies, were placed in receivership.

Former Liberal Attorney-General, John Bennett resigned from parliament stating poor pay as the reason.

February

Firetap won the Hobart Cup.

Major Chris Gibson, a retired army major, was elected as the Liberal Party's new member for Denison in the House of Assembly after the resignation of John Bennett.

Petrol station rostering ceased.

Par Avion suspended trading and sent most of its 64 employees on forced leave following the company's collapse.

March

A highly organised deer-poaching racket was broken in a crackdown by authorities. The racket involved sophisticated communication links, secret compartments in vehicles, the clandestine use of woodchip ships to export the venison and a rising tide of violence.

Eighty workers at Zeehan's Renison tin mine were retrenched following a downturn in the industry as a result of a massive drop in the international price of tin.

The troubled Bendigo Pottery company, including its Deloraine factory, was sold to a Victorian company for \$2.6 million.

Devonport's Serendipity Fun Park closed with debts totalling \$1.4 million.

A Federal election was held. Elected to the House of Representatives for the Liberal Party were Chris Miles (Braddon) Warwick Smith,

(Bass), Bruce Goodluck (Franklin) and Max Burr (Lyons) and Labor candidate, Duncan Kerr (Denison). Elected senators were Jocelyn Newman, John Watson and Paul Calvert for the Liberal Party, Labor candidates, Nick Sherry and John Devereux and Democrat, Robert Bell.

Obituary

One of Tasmania's leading parliamentarians and barristers, Sir Reginald Wright died aged 84. Sir Reginald was a Liberal senator from 1949 to 1978 and the inaugural State president of the Liberal Party. He entered politics in 1946 as a Member for Franklin in the House of Assembly before successfully contesting a Senate seat in 1949, a position he held until his protest resignation over the MPs' pension system in 1978 at the age of 73. Educated at Devonport State High School and the University of Tasmania he was admitted to the Bar in 1928 and lectured in law at the University of Tasmania for 15 years. He served with the rank of captain in the field artillery from 1941 to 1944.

More than 20 kilometres of the Pieman River was poisoned by a mystery chemical. The river bank was littered with hundreds of dead fish and the water contained acrid toffee-coloured foam. General maintenance on an HEC dam was to blame for the catastrophe when a large quantity of oxygen-depleted water was released from the Reece Dam.

East Coast fish meal company Industrial Fish Tasmania Pty Ltd ceased operation when the Tasmania Bank and The Tasmanian Development Authority foreclosed on loans of more than \$5 million owed by the company.

April

Launceston Marine Industries won a \$260 million contract for the joint construction of a number of patrol boats for the Phillipines navy.

The general manager of the State Government-run TT-Line, Mr Geoffrey Ede, was suspended from duties, pending an inquiry.

Winding down of the Mt Lyell copper mine at Queenstown began when 80 jobs were lost.

Dr Bob Brown won the Goldman Environmental Prize, an international environmental award.

APPM's Wesley Vale mill announced a voluntary retrenchment program to shed 70 jobs.

Launceston clothing manufacturer Southern Garment Co. Pty Ltd closed. A local and national economic downturn and the withdrawal of federal protection for the industry were blamed for the closure.

May

Launceston businessman Edmund Rouse pleaded guilty to attempting to bribe Tasmanian Labor MHA Mr Jim Cox. He was fined \$4000 and sentenced to three years jail

Mr Harry Braid, a former President of the Legislative Council and the Member for Mersey for 18 years, retired from State Parliament.

Writs arising from the long-running peat moss affair and claiming \$2.84 million from the State Government and the Tasmanian Development Authority were lodged in the Hobart Supreme Court.

Tasmania's Director of Public Prosecutions lodged an appeal against the three year jail sentence imposed on Edmund Rouse on the grounds that it was 'manifestly inadequate'.

The Guthrie Group, parent of Devonport carpet manufacturer Tascot Templeton, took over the Devonport operations of Bonds Weaving Mills.

Mr Bill Zeeman, a Launceston lawyer, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court to replace Mr Justice Robert Nettlefold who retired.

Legislative Council elections for the divisions of Cornwell, Huon and Mersey were held. Ray Bailey, Athol Meyer and Geoff Squibb won the respective seats.



Hon. Justice Zeeman.
Photo: The Examiner

June

The troubled Waverley Woollen Mills was purchased by a mystery buyer on the day 30 of its employees received their severance pay.

Former TT-Line general manager Geoffrey Ede resigned following a 10 week suspension.

The Minister for Education and the Arts, Peter Patmore, announced an independent review of Tasmania's education system and arts services, which could cost up to \$570 000.

Bob Clifford's Tasmanian-built catamaran, Hoverspeed Great Britain, set a new record for crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

Tasmania beat Victoria in the State of Origin game by 33 points.

Mr Geoffrey Ede, former TT-Line general manager, was the subject of a ministerial statement presented to parliament by the Premier. Mr Ede resigned rather than face charges of alleged misconduct involving the spending of taxpayers' money.

Senator Ray Devlin retired from politics after six years in the Senate.

A \$40 million grant was given to the State Government by the Federal Government to help fund a redundancy program for up to 2000 public servants.

Tioxide Australia announced plans to cut its Burnie workforce by 106 by the end of August. The retrenchment was a cost-cutting measure to survive falling sales.

Concern was raised over high levels of heavy metals which were detected in soil samples taken at Lutana.

International credit rating agency Moody's gave Tasmania the lowest credit rating of all States.

Obituary

Former Labor parliamentarian and long-serving Attorney-General and Deputy Premier of Tasmania Mr Roy Fagan died after a long illness.

Roy Fagan was born at Waratah in 1905. He was an organiser with the AWW during the Great Depression and later became a barrister after graduating with Bachelor of Law qualifications at the University of Tasmania.

Liberal Party member Nick Evers resigned.

A cannister used by Pasmenco-EZ to store radioactive waste was found on the Glenorchy tip after three days of searching for the missing container.

August

Former State cricket captain and coach Brian Davison replaced Nick Evers in the House of Assembly seat of Franklin. Twenty-seven Tasmanians aboard three Royal Australian Navy ships were amongst 600 Australian sailors who were sent to the Persian Gulf to take part in a multi-national blockade of Iraq and Kuwait following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The Examiner newspaper was bought by The Advocate for \$28 million.

September

Supreme Court judge Justice Frank Neasey retired after 27 years on the Supreme Court bench. He was the longest-serving judge of any superior court in Australia.

Terry Martin was elected mayor of Glenorchy.

Hobart won the Statewide League grand final, defeating North Launceston by 58 points.

October

The historic Labor-Green Accord ended when the Government announced the adoption of the Forests and Forest Industry Strategy.

Resignation of Ken Wriedt

Mr Ken Wriedt, MHA, resigned from parliament on medical grounds after 23 years on the Tasmanian and Federal political scenes. A former insurance officer and officer in the Merchant Navy, Mr Wriedt (63) was first elected to the Senate for Tasmania in 1967 and held the Ministries of Primary Industry, Agriculture and Minerals and Energy during the years of the Whitlam Government. At the time the Whitlam Government fell he was Leader of the Government in the Senate. After the ensuing election, which put the Liberal Party in office, Ken Wriedt served in Opposition, before attempting to switch to the House of Representatives in 1980. He was beaten convincingly for the seat of Denison by the Liberal Party's Michael Hodgman. In 1982 he was endorsed for the State seat of Franklin and was elected by more than twice the quota needed for election. Mr Wriedt replaced Harry Holgate as Labor leader and was in turn replaced by Neil Batt after the electoral defeat of 1986. In the Field Government he was Minister for Roads and Transport and Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

More than 100 employees at Savage River Mines were retrenched as part of the downgrading of operations at the mine.

A downturn in the building industry plunged Hobart's building apprenticeship scheme into crisis. Forty young people lost their jobs.

The World Rowing Championships at Lake Barrington was officially opened by the Premier. An estimated 12 000 people attended the opening which included a march past of competitors from 41 nations.

Airline deregulation began.

November

The Premier called in auditors to determine whether the affairs of the Tasmania Bank were in order.

Anthony Aloï pleaded guilty to helping Edmund Rouse attempt to bribe Labour MHA, Jim Cox.

Edmund Rouse's former media interests were to be investigated by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal.

Lara Saunders was crowned Miss Tasmania and Miss Tasmania Fundraiser was Shannon Bailey.



Lara Saunders
Photo: The Examiner

The remains of the last tribally-born Tasmanian Aborigine man, William Lanney, also known as King Billy, were found in an Edinburgh University.

North Broken Hill - Peko's scheelite mine on King Island closed.

Australia slipped into recession.

December

Tasmania's Police Commissioner, Bill Horman, resigned to take up a position with the National Crime Authority.

A modified petrol rostering system began. Service stations threatening to defy it faced hefty fines.

Retired Queensland Supreme Court judge Justice William Carter was selected to head

Tasmania's royal commission into the political bribery scandal.

The \$20 million catamaran ferry *Seacat Tasmania* took its first passenger voyage from George Town to Welshpool, Victoria.

The State government announced an agreement to purchase the German-built \$150 million passenger ferry *Peter Pan* to replace the *Abel Tasman* on the Melbourne-Devonport Bass Strait run. The new ship will be on line by mid-1993.

The State government announced that 26 branch libraries would close on 1 January and dismissed calls to return levies to councils to let them run their own library services.

Obituary

One of Tasmania's most respected innovators and inventors Mr Eric Newham Waterworth died, aged 85. Born in Hobart and educated at Hobart High and the Hutchins School, Mr Waterworth was known nationally for his invention of the Waterworth slide projector. He designed and made innovative machinery for the University of Tasmania's Physics and Chemistry Departments and in his final years worked with his son in developing a laser firelighter.

Ragamuffin won line honours in the Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race.

1991

January

A new 100 kmh maximum speed limit was introduced as part of a 10-point plan for uniform road laws throughout Australia.

More than 26 000 sheep were culled in Tasmania as part of a bid by the Australian Wool Corporation to reduce Australia's sheep glut.

Edmund Rouse was officially stripped of his CBE and his name removed from the royal honours roll. Rouse is the first Australian to lose an imperial honour.

The State government paid a \$7 million deposit for the purchase of the replacement for the Bass Strait ferry *Abel Tasman*. The deposit was paid to the German owners of the \$150 million vessel *Peter Pan*.

Darrel Baldock was awarded the Order of Australia in the Australia Day honours list for

services to the Tasmanian parliament and Australian Rules football.

February

Fire destroyed \$2 million worth of stock at the King Island Dairies.

Lady Have a Heart won the 1991 Hobart Cup.

Ray Groom resigned as Deputy Leader of the Liberal party.

The bribery royal commission opened its first day of public hearings to follow up summonses to produce documents which might help the commission in its investigations.

Bitter Spring won the Launceston Cup.

March

The Renison tin mine on the West Coast closed putting 350 miners out of work and threatening hundreds of other jobs around the State. The closure came after five weeks of union-management talks failed.

The Tasmanian Symphony Chamber Players created Australian history by performing in the underground caverns of the Mt Lyell copper mine in Queenstown.

A Renison Goldfields Consolidated Ltd task force was formed to examine options which may allow the company's West Coast tin mine to re-open.

The troubled Tasmania Bank was taken over by the SBT.

Australian National Railways planned to cut its 700-strong Tasmanian workforce by 315.

Renison mine management and unions agreed to set April 2 as the target date for the re-opening of the troubled West Coast tin mine.

April

Peter Patmore resigned from the education portfolio and chose the environment and planning portfolio in addition to his other portfolio of Minister for Justice.

May

The report of a study into cadmium levels near the Pasmenco Metals-EZ refinery gave a clean bill of health to Lutana residents but they were warned not to eat homegrown vegetables.

Obituary

South-west Tasmania's retired tin miner turned naturalist and artist Mr Deny King died, aged 81. Mr King made a remote paradise for himself and his family for more than 50 years on the banks of Moth Creek at Melaleuca, near Port Davey. Charles Denison King was famous for his hospitality to bushwalkers and cruising yachtsmen and was awarded a personal commendation from the Governor of Tasmania in December 1990. His helpfulness and knowledge of the area saved many from spending freezing nights in the wilderness, while his weather reports radioed to Hobart were also instrumental in helping keep fishermen and bushwalkers safe.

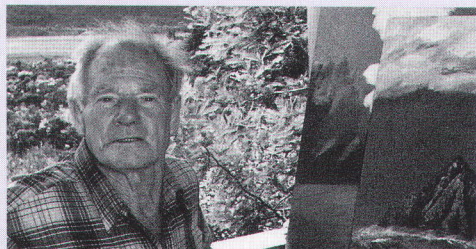


Photo: The Mercury

Legislative council elections for the seats of Meander, Derwent and Westmorland were held. The seats were won by Mr R. Hope, Mr C. Batt and Mr G. Brookes respectively.

June

Obituary

Former politician, publican and sporting identity John Coughlan died suddenly, aged 56. Mr Coughlan was a Labor MHA for the seat of Braddon in the 1970s and a football coach in the 1960s.

Neil Batt was awarded an officer in the General Division (AO) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for 1991 for service to the Tasmanian parliament, to politics and to the community.

The Portland Council was sacked and replaced with an administrator.

Police began investigating allegations that more than \$500 000 was missing from government funds.

Mr John Johnson was appointed Tasmania's Commissioner of Police.

July

The future of Tasmania's political bribery royal commission was in doubt after Robin Gray and David McQuestin succeeded in a move to have the Supreme Court consider stopping the commission. The grounds were alleged bias.

Alan Evans, head of the Premier's Office, was charged with bargaining for public office. The incident arose from the appointment of Neil Batt as State Ombudsman in 1989.

Australian Paper Manufacturers shut down its Port Huon pulp mill, putting 115 people out of work.

August

The entire HEC-owned town of Poatina was offered for sale.

The royal commission bias claims hearing began.

Mr Neil Batt resigned as State Ombudsman.

September

The combined SBT and Tasmania banks began trading as the Trust Bank.

Clarence player Gary Williamson won the Holden William Leitch Medal for the best and fairest player in the TFL Statewide league.

North Hobart defeated North Launceston in the Statewide league football grand final.

October

Tasmania began daylight saving three weeks before the mainland states.

Cadbury Schweppes Pty. Ltd. celebrated the 70th anniversary of its establishment in Tasmania.

A full bench of the Supreme Court dismissed the bid by Robin Gray and David McQuestin to prevent the Carter royal commission from reporting on the grounds of bias.

Mr William Carter handed his royal commission report to the Governor of Tasmania.

November

The Field Labor government survived a no-confidence motion in parliament but failed to have their resource security legislation passed.

The bribery royal commission report was published.

The Liberal and Labor parties combined to force the resource security legislation through the House of Assembly.

Simone Goss was crowned Miss Tasmania 1992 and Mary-Lou Di Bari Miss Fund Raiser 1992.

The graves of 100 Tasmanian Aborigines were found at Wybalenna on Flinders Island.

December

Robin Gray was dumped as leader of the Liberal party and Ray Groom took over the leadership with John Beswick as his deputy.

Charges against Alan Evans of bargaining for public office were dismissed.

Brindabella, the 19.6 metre Farr-designed pocket maxi skippered by George Snow, took line honours in the Sydney-Hobart yacht race. *Atara*, skippered by World Champion sailor Harold Cudmore, won on corrected time.

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